

## BOOK REVIEW

JANE S. SMITH. 2009. **The Garden of Invention: Luther Burbank and the Business of Breeding Plants.** (ISBN 978-1-59420-209-4, hbk.). Penguin Press, Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, U.S.A. (**Orders:** [www.penguin.com](http://www.penguin.com)). \$25.95, 345 pp., 5 1/2" × 8 1/4".

Though it might be difficult to find someone who has never heard of Luther Burbank, there are many people who don't understand the scope and depth of his work. Author Jane Smith does an incredible job of detailing the life and achievements of Mr. Burbank and explains the implications of his work with plant genetics among other things. Laying the foundation for modern agriculture, Mr. Burbank had a fascinating infatuation with the complexities of nature, and this book is a captivating account of his life. *Garden of Invention* is easy to read, flows well, and is captivating for anyone with an interest in botany or agriculture. Extensively researched and well written, Jane Smith has constructed a detailed biography of one of America's early heroes.—*Haden Shibley, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.*

*From the publisher:* "**Jane S. Smith** received her Ph.D. in English from Yale University and has taught at Northwestern University on topics ranging from twentieth-century fiction to the history of public health. Her history of the first polio vaccine, *Patenting the Sun: Polio and the Salk Vaccine*, received the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Science and Technology. She has served as commentator, consultant, and writer for numerous documentary film projects. She lives in Chicago, where she works in a very small room with a very large window."